

What is claimed is:

1. A method for identifying a compound that modulates the interaction between CARD-8 and caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG, the method comprising:

5 a) contacting CARD-8 and caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG in the presence of a test compound;

b) measuring the binding of CARD-8 and caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG in the presence of the test compound;

10 c) identifying the test compound as a compound that modulates the interaction between CARD-8 and caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG when the binding of CARD-8 to caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG is increased or decreased in the presence of the test compound compared the binding of CARD-8 to caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG in the absence of the test compound.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein CARD-8 is immobilized on a solid support.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG is immobilized on a solid support.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the test compound is a peptide.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the test compound is a peptide analog.

20 6. The method of claim 2, wherein CARD-8 is immobilized by binding to an antibody that is bound to the solid support.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG is immobilized by binding to an antibody that is bound to the solid support.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein CARD-8 is detectably labeled.

25 9. The method of claim 1, wherein caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG is detectably labeled.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising measuring the binding of CARD-8 to caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG in the absence of the test compound.

11. A method for identifying a compound that modulates an activity of CARD-8, the method comprising:

- 5       a) contacting CARD-8 with a test compound; and  
      b) determining the effect of the test compound on the activity of CARD-8, to thereby identify a compound that modulates the activity of CARD-8.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the activity of CARD-8 comprises the ability to increase or decrease apoptosis.

10       13. The method of claim 11, wherein the activity of CARD-8 comprises the ability to induce the secretion of IL-1 $\beta$ .

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the activity of CARD-8 comprises the ability to induce caspase activation.

15       15. A method of treating a disorder associated with inappropriate apoptosis, the method comprising modulating the expression or activity of CARD-8.

16. A method of treating a disorder associated with inappropriate inflammation, the method comprising modulating the expression or activity of CARD-8.

17. A method of treating a disorder associated with inappropriate apoptosis, the method comprising modulating the expression or activity of CARD-7.